The CRISIS

SEPTEMBER, 1946

SOCIAL SCIENCES

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DID NEGROES ELECT TALMADGE?

See page 266

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910 *and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is published monthly at 20 West 40th Street, New York* 18, *N. Y., by the Crisis Publishing Co., Inc., Dr. Louis T. Wright, president; Walter White, secretary; and Mrs. Lillian A. Alexander, treasurer. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15 *cents a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscription may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care, it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November* 2, 1910, *at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March* 3, 1879.

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EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

PICTURED ON THE COVER are (left to right) Alice E. Willis, niece of Sgt. Harry Whitaker, Jr.; Mary Johnson, daughter of Cpl. Johnny Johnson; Bunkie Williams, son of Henry Williams, veteran; and Mitzi Sheppard, daughter of Ray Sheppard, veteran. The children are eating ice cream in the Pensacola, Florida, USO. Picture is an official USO photograph.

C. A. SCOTT, who writes on the meaning of the Negro vote in the recent Georgia primary election (page 266), is editor of the Atlanta *World*, the only Negro daily in the United States.

WILLIAM MONTAGUE COBB (page 268) is professor of anatomy in the Howard university medical school. Dr. Cobb is a graduate of Amherst college, the Howard university medical school, and Western Reserve university, from which he holds a Ph.D. degree in anatomy. He is author of *The First Negro Medical Society, Index of the American Journal of Physical Anthropology, Physical Anthropology of the American Negro*, and many monographs and articles.

DANIEL T. SULLIVAN (page 271) is a reporter on the staff of the *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison, Wisconsin. Verlene Stevens is a member of the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP.

MARTHA McMILLAN did the photographic essay (pages 272-273) on the Negro veteran-students at the University of Michigan. She is a free lance photographer and writer and lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

BEN SEGAL (page 274) is director of the Council for Equal Job Opportunity in Philadelphia, Pa. Mr. Segal is a frequent *Crisis* contributor.

OUR OCTOBER ISSUE will carry reports on the recent outbreaks of violence against Negroes in the South and George Padmore's "Trusteeship: The New Imperialism."

We have also scheduled for October:

- **★ Eliot Wagner's short story, "An American Artist"**
- **★ James Farmer's "Unsheating the Consumer Sword"**

For forthcoming issues we have:

- **★ A report on the crisis in Jamaican self-rule by George F. McCray**
- **★ And an analysis of the Haitian political situation by Max L. Hudicourt**

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College and School News

Jacqueline Bell, A. B., Fisk

Drama, music, dance, and the cinema were featured at the second annual arts of the theatre held July 29-August 4 by the HAMPTON INSTITUTE summer school under the direction of Randolph Edmonds. Among the artists present were Miss Camilla Williams, soprano, recently starred in *Madame Butterfly*, and Asadata Dafora and his African dancers.

At the DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE workers are busy assembling units of the college GI houses. The first unit was completed in July and will accommodate thirty-six veterans. Four additional units are being built for both single and married veterans. Those for married ex-GIs will consist of apartments containing two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, and a bath.

The second semester dean's list released by the college carries twenty-two names, seven of which are those of ex-GIs. Top-ranking student is Miss Olive Stewart, honor graduate of the Howard high school, Wilmington. Miss Stewart earned seven A's. Next highest ranking student is Miss Sylvia Davis of Millesboro, Del., who earned six A's and one B.

Lester B. Granger of New York City, executive secretary of the National Urban League, was one of eight distinguished American citizens who received honorary degrees at the 177th commencement exercises of DARTMOTH COLLEGE, Hanover, N. H. Mr. Granger, a graduate of Dartmouth in 1918, received the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from President John Sloan Dickey.

Fifty-first annual commencement ex-

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ercises of the FLORIDA NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE were held May 31, with Dr. J. M. Ellison, president of Virginia Union university, as principal speaker.

Forty-first annual commencement of BUTLER COLLEGE was held May 15, with the Rev. Sandy F. Ray, pastor of the Cornerstone Baptist church, Brooklyn, N. Y., as principal speaker. Highest ranking students among the graduates were Doris Marie Smith, Doris E. Askew, and Verdia Mae Wade.

The eightieth anniversary commencement of TALLADEGA COLLEGE was held June 3, with Rev. Truman Douglass, executive vice-president of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches, delivering the address.

The college choir, under direction of Frank G. Harrison, has appeared in concerts in Moline, Ill.; Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; Chicago, Ill.; and Indianapolis, Ind. The choir also rendered music for the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches which met at Grinnell college, Grinnell, Iowa, June 17-24.

On June 26-28 LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Mo.) was host to the forty-fifth annual convention of the Missouri State Association of Colored Women.

Full membership has been granted the university in the National Association of College Women. Membership in the association grants the privilege of affiliation with the organization, through local chapters, to women graduates. Other institutions operated primarily for Negroes which are affiliated with the association are Washington university, Howard, Talladega, and Fisk.

A feature of the university summer school was presentation of the Dillard university players, under the direction of Dr. U. S. Maxwell, in three one-act plays.

Compiled enrollment figures for the summer school as reported by Dr. Walter Talbot, registrar, show a total of 458 registrants. Of this number 118 were veterans and 15 were graduate students.

Commencement convocation of the summer school on August 1 was addressed by Dr. George W. Diemer, president of the Central Missiouri State Teachers College, Warrensburg, Mo.

President Sherman D. Scruggs has announced an increase in the room rent fee in the residence halls at Lincoln which became effective September 1.

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Allene J. Knighten, Graduate of Oberlin Conservatory and winner of Selby Houston award.

the present residence hall for men (Allen) are under way in preparation for construction of the veterans' housing units allotted to the university.

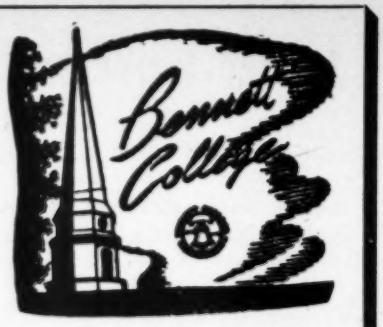
The University School of Journalism is offering five curator scholarships of $50 each, to be awarded annually only to Missouri students; and the Abbott grant of $400, first of its kind ever to have been established by a Negro newspaper. Factors to be considered in choosing the winners are scholastic average, formal training in journalism, references, specimen copy of applicant's writing, and educational status.

A first distribution of $300,000 is being made to the thirty-three member colleges of the UNITED NERGO COLLEGE FUND out of the proceeds of the 1946 campaign, according to an announcement by W. J. Trent, Jr., executive director of the fund.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY school of religion publishes a significant analysis of *Negro Students in Schools of Religion* in research memorandum No. 1, May 1, 1946.

With 129 full-time students from twenty states enrolled for the summer session, the ATLANTA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK reached the highest peak in its summer school history.

Dr. Edward Allen Jones, chairman of the French department at MOREHOUSE COLLEGE and acting chairman of the Atlanta university French department, sailed from New York on July 19 for France, where he will be a guest of the French government. Dr. Jones is one of a hundred American teachers



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Mrs. Margaret Nabrit Curry has been appointed dean of women at SPELMAN COLLEGE to succeed Mrs. Jane Hope Lyons, who is retiring after fourteen years' service.

Miss Clara Lenore Yates, a 1946 graduate of Spelman, was a delegate to the International Student Service Conference held on July 22-29 at Girton college, Cambridge university, England.

American education stands condemned for not having produced a cultured and educated citizenry, declared Kendall Weisiger, chairman of the board of trustees of Morehouse, at a summer school assembly of ATLANTA UNIVERSITY. "With twenty million children in the elementary schools; seven million in the high schools; and one and one-half million in colleges, we are still not a cultured and educated people," he asserted.

The Atlanta university summer theatre, organized in 1934 by Dr. Anne M. Cooke, visiting professor of drama from Howard, opened its thirteenth season with Edward Chodorov's *Decision*. Two other plays offered by the theatre were A. A. Milne's *Mr. Pim Passes By* and Zoe Akins' *The Old Maid*.

STORER COLLEGE reports twenty-three students on its dean's list for the second semester 1945-46. Four students from the list, Vera H. Clark, Agnes L. Stevens, James H. Green, and Ethel E. Cowherd, graduated cum laude.

Dr. Horace Mann Bond, president of Lincoln university (Pa.), delivered the address at the forty-sixth annual commencement of BEREAN SCHOOL on June 12. The expansion drive for $25,000 was initiated at the exercises, with Bernard Samuel, mayor of Philadelphia, as honorary chairman.

Miss Edith Gibbs has been appointed to the department of religious education at BARBER-SCOTIA COLLEGE. Miss Gibbs has completed work for her master's degree at New York university.

Miss Jeannette Temple, who was on leave, returns to the college in the fall

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to resume her duties in the department of fine arts.

Second annual American Red Cross aquatic school was conducted at WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE July 8-18 under the direction of Blair Bronsted, of the Eastern Area office staff of the American Red Cross. Purpose of the school was to train capable and qualified leaders in first aid, swimming and water safety, small craft operation, and home and farm accident prevention.

John R. Cottin, professor of romance languages at FISK UNIVERSITY, was among the one hundred teachers of French from the United States who sailed from New York on July 19 to spend two months as guests of the French government.

Dr. Thomas Elsa Jones, who has been president of Fisk since 1926, left the university in June to assume the presidency of his alma mater, Earlham college, Richmond, Indiana. The faculty of Fisk made a special pronouncement of its appreciation of the services rendered the college by the retiring president, and enumerated in an impressive list the accomplishments of the noted educator during his twenty years at Fisk.

According to reports from the UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, that institution graduated a total of twenty-one Negro students during 1945-1946. Seven were recipients of various masters degrees; and fourteen, of various bachelors degrees. In extra-curricular activities, Martha L. Harry of Indianapolis, Indiana, was elected secretary-treasurer of the senior class for the second semester of 1946. Frederick C. Ford of St. Louis, Mo., was elected by the student body to the student senate.

The university track team won the Big Ten championship, indoor and outdoor this year, and achieved national honors in dual and open meets. Negro athletes were contributing factors: William Mathis, Washington, D. C., in the short dashes; George R. Walker, Robbins, Ill., in the high and low hurdles; and Herbert H. McKenley, Clarendon, Jamaica, BWI, in the 220 and the 440. McKenley broke the world's record in the quarter mile dash. By popular vote of the student body he was acclaimed as "the athlete of the year."

James R. Cannon, a former member of the faculty of Wiley college, received his S. T. M. in philosophy at the spring commencement of Boston university.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER GRADUATES *from Johnson C. Smith university are (left) Mrs. Ruth Wyatt Coleem and her daughter Bernadine Alberta Coles. Mrs. Coleem is an honor graduate with a major in elementary education; her daughter, an honor graduate in business administration. Another Daughter, Ruth, was a Junior honor student as a business administration major.*

Campbell's Studio

TRINITY CANDIDATE—*George Leonard Matthews, organist and choirmaster of Mother Zion church, New York, received his Master of Sacred Music degree from Union Theological Seminary, New York, in July. He is a licentiate of Trinity College, London, and also candidate for a degree from the same college.*

Editorials

FEPC Foe Defeated

CONGRESSMAN ROGER C. SLAUGHTER of the fifth Missouri Congressional district was defeated in the primary election August 6 and thus will not be present to block important legislation in the 80th Congress beginning next January.

Slaughter will be remembered as the one man who prevented the FEPC bill from coming to a vote in the House. Slaughter, as a member of the powerful Rules committee, broke a tie vote on FEPC, voting against the measure. Had he voted for reporting it, the bill would have come up in the House and would have been passed, despite the ravings of the southerners against it.

The Negro voters in the fifth Missouri district did not forget the Slaughter record on primary day. Two years ago they opposed him and the Kansas City branch of the NAACP bought newspaper advertisements calling for his defeat. But it was a presidential election with Mr. Roosevelt heading the ticket and Slaughter rode through. This year President Truman called for his defeat and that, along with the Negro vote and other factors, brought defeat.

The Kansas City Star which fought Mr. Truman and supported Slaughter, tells what the Negro precincts did to the foe of FEPC:

"In the first six precincts (of the fourth ward) Slaughter received exactly 14 votes. In the two well-populated Negro precinct Slaughter *did not receive a single ballot* (italics ours). In some other Negro precincts he received two, three and four votes."

The Kansas City voters certainly did a job on Slaughter, one that should be an example to our people in other sections of the country. Not only did they chop down a man who fought legislation directly affecting them, but they got rid of a congressman who believes in using committees to block legislation from coming to the floor for a vote. This was the reason Mr. Truman called for Slaughter's head. Basically it was a more important reason for demanding his defeat than his opposition to FEPC, for we can never have laws expressing the will of the people as long as a handful of committee members prevents the whole Congress from voting on measures.

A salute to Kansas City voters!

A Crack in the Ghetto?

IT has been recognized generally that while restrictive covenants are an important obstacle to Negroes seeking decent housing, the giant road block has been the combination of real estate dealers, mortgage companies, and financial institutions. This combination has refused to sell or rent or finance property in certain areas of nearly all cities and towns in the nation.

For that reason, the civil suit filed by the Federal government August 6 against the Mortgage Conference of New York and 38 insurance companies, savings banks and trust companies, charging violation of the antitrust laws is important news to Negroes and will be watched with great interest. The general charge against the defendants is that they are engaging in a conspiracy to prevent and suppress competition in the making of mortgage loans and in the operation of real estate in the New York metropolitan area.

Specifically, on Negro housing, the complaint charges that the defendants, by agreement and concerted action, have restricted minority racial and national groups to certain sections of New York City where they have been compelled to pay higher rents than those charged for comparable dwellings in other sections of the city. The government also charges that in stabilizing the retail market the defendants made surveys showing the blocks in New York City in which Negroes and Spanish-speaking persons resided, and refrained from placing mortgages on property in such blocks and induced property owners in borderline sections to refuse to permit Negroes and Spanish-speaking persons to become tenants in their properties.

This is old stuff to Negroes. The fresh item is that the Federal government has now taken notice. There are many other complaints against the New York companies and these undoubtedly had a major influence on the government, but it is encouraging to have the complaint include Negro housing. For if the *combination* is broken up the chances of making individual deals to break out of the ghettos will be vastly improved.

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Anti-Lynching Law Needed

THE shockingly brutal quadruple lynching at Monroe, Ga., might not have happened if Gene Talmadge had not campaigned on race hatred and won election as governor of Georgia, but if it had happened without Talmadge the nation could have acted if it had had a Federal anti-lynching law. Without such a law the outraged decent citizens of the land and the government officials who stand humiliated before the world are helplessly gnashing their teeth. The Federal government has no authority to arrest and bring to trial any suspects, and the local officials refuse to act. The four people shot to death (three innocent of any crime) might just as well have been living under Hitler and the Gestapo as under the Bill of Rights in the world's greatest democracy.

In the long run the abolition of the poll tax, the non-segregated unionization of workers in the South, and the increased participation of Negroes in the hitherto "white" primary elections may solve the problem. But for now we need a Federal anti-lynching law, and it should be the first business of the new Congress.

Suprise! Suprise!

SENATOR THEODORE G. BILBO of Mississippi has admitted in a nation-wide radio interview that he is a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Army's "New" Policy

THE suspension of Negro enlistments and the announcement that 31 Negro officers have been appointed to the regular army out of a total of 9,800 so appointed gives a key to the "new" Army policy. It also bears out the analysis of the widely-heralded Gillem report by this magazine.

The Gillem report said Negro officers would be given equality of opportunity and would be promoted on merit. But the War department starts our men under a handicap from the beginning by finding only 31 worthy of being included in a total of 9,800! In addition, we will have 11 officers, already in the regular army. Of the grand total of 42 officers, 10 are chaplains, leaving 32 "working" officers, not enough to man a battalion! The "new" policy sounds suspiciously like the same old stuff.

Did Negroes Elect Talmadge?

By C. A. Scott

THE much talked-about and looked-forward to Georgia Democratic Primary of July 17th has come and passed into history. In its wake several significant facts stand out.

In the first place, through the operation of an antiquated system that is peculiar to Georgia, race-baiting Eugene Talmadge received the gubernatorial nomination over his chief opponent, young attorney James V. Carmichael, who received a popular vote of 313,389 and a unit vote of 146 while the successful nominee received only 297,245 popular votes and a unit vote of 242. The race for governor and other state offices in Georgia is decided on the basis of the unit vote. In other words, although former Gopernor Talmadge won the nomination under the primary laws and rules, he is not the choice even of a plurality of voters.

The next and most significant fact revealed by the primary was that over 100,000 Negroes are reliably reported to have participated in the primary, marking the first time in the history of the state that Negroes ever voted in a Democratic primary, which previously had been restricted to "whites only."

Since the April 3, 1944, ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court in the Texas case, Georgia Negroes have been knocking at the Georgia primary door which was finally opened by a U. S. Court decision in October of 1945. This ruling opening the Georgia primary to Negroes gave the spark for a registration drive over the state that is unequalled by Negroes in any other state. On January 1, 1946, there were less than 30,000 colored registrants in the entire state, but when the deadline for voting came, most accurate press reports stated that the Negro registration had reached the 134,351 mark.

In view of the issues Governor-nominee Talmadge canalized in his campaign, the Negro electors had little choice to make in casting their votes. Talmadge, who had previously sat in the governor's chair for three terms (1933-1936, 1941-1942), used the race issue for all it was worth. For instance, the chief plank in his platform was a promise to restore the "white primary" and that "no Negro would vote under his four years in office." (Beginning in 1943 the governor's term of office was extended from two to four years).

More than 100,000 Negroes are reported to have cast their votes in the Georgia primary which led to the victory of Eugene Talmadge on a "white supremacy" platform. How the Negroes voted is explained in this article

Mr. Talmadge charged liberal Governor Ellis Arnall with not having seriously tried to defend the white primary in the celebrated Primus King case which gave the primary vote to our race in Georgia. South Carolina abolished all primary laws with a view of removing the primary election from the jurisdiction of the U. S. Court, which was cited by Talmade as an example for Georgia to follow. Paradoxically, however, repeal of the primary laws would also repeal the law setting up the unit system which gives smaller or rural counties control over the state. Talmadge says he would preserve the unit system to which he owes his election through the Democratic Executive Committee.

Talmadge Lucky

Lady-luck seems to have been on the side of Talmadge, considering the race-baiting campaign he was making. For instance, when the U. S. Supreme Court in June ruled against segregation on interstate bus travel, he immediately put into his platform a plank purporting to solve this problem for the anti-Negro southerner. Talmadge has promised that while he is governor, he will require Negroes who make interstate trips on buses to purchase tickets only from border to border within the state and thereby eliminate the interstate aspects of the trip. As I see it, this will be impracticable and too expensive for the bus companies to set up all the ticket offices that would be necessary to make the plan work.

James V. Carmichael, in contrast to Talmadge, promised to take no steps to attempt to prevent the Negro from voting. He promised a continuation of the liberalism and progressivism that characterized the Arnall administration which eliminated the poll tax as a pre-requisite to voting and lowered the voting age to eighteen.

The other two candidates for governor were E. D. Rivers, who was exposed as a former Klan lecturer, and Hoke O'Kelley. These two men polled only 69,489 and 11,758 votes, respectively, out of the grand total of 691,881 ballots cast, a substantially higher number than ever previously cast.

Negroes lined up in front of the court house in Atlanta, Ga., to register for voting.
Lyons & Caruthers

With these issues and circumstances it is easy to see how the Negro vote was almost solidly cast for Carmichael. All of the large cities in which there is a substantial Negro vote went into the Carmichael column by big margins. The only exception was Savannah where the two local white dailies supported Talmadge. Savannah is the seat of Chatham county which went into the Talmadge column by a margin of less than 1,500 votes and it is reliably reported that at the time the polls closed in Savannah over 5,000 Negroes were left in line. If these Negroes who were in the line before the closing time had been permitted to vote, as was done in other cities, this county's unit vote could have gone to Carmichael.

A glance at the returns from the all-Negro and predominantly Negro precincts show clearly the solidarity of the Negro vote. In Atlanta where there are over 24,000 Negroes registered, Carmichael received 57,601 votes to 20,312 for Talmadge. At precinct B in the third ward where over 6,000 registrants are listed, of whom all are Negro except ten, this result was given in the governor's race: Carmichael, 4,550; Rivers, 16; O'Kelley, 22; Talmadge, 4. In Columbus and Albany it was reported that Talmadge did not receive any votes at the Negro polling places. At Savannah the Negro vote was reliably reported as follows: For Carmichael, 9,884; Talmadge, 50; Rivers, 50; O'Kelley, 8.

Unit System Old

The unit system which prevails by law and party rule in Georgia for the nomination of governor and other state officials has been in effect for about forty years. It is supposed to be comparable to our electoral college in the selection of our president. It was also intended to spread control of the state government throughout the state and prevent domination by the larger cities as is the case, for instance, in Tennessee. Georgia has 159 counties and each county has a given number of unit votes, ranging from two for the smallest counties to six for the largest. There are eight counties with 6 unit votes each, thirty counties with 4 unit votes and 121 counties with 2 unit votes each. This represents a grand total of 410 unit votes. A candidate for governor must receive at least 206 unit votes to win the nomination, which in Georgia under a one-party system is equivalent to election, for the simple fact that there is no opposition in the general election. Moreover, under Georgia's unit system, the candidate receiving a plurality of votes cast in a county—not necessarily a majority—is credited with its unit vote.

When the unit system was established many years ago, it may have been equitable to the citizens as a whole, but with the population shifts of the past twenty-five years, this is certainly not true today. For example, Walton County where four Negroes, including two women, were massacred by a mob of twenty to thirty white men on July 25 gave Talmadge its two unit votes with popular votes cast as follows: Talmadge, 2,201; Carmichael, 2,123; Rivers, 503; O'Kelley, 149. This is a total popular vote of 4,976. On the other hand, Fulton County (Atlanta) cast a total popular vote of 83,057 but gave Carmichael only six unit votes. In other words, Fulton county has over eighteen times the voting strength of Walton county but has ONLY THREE times as many unit votes. In other smaller counties the disparity in the strength of the vote is even greater.

Some Negro political observers believe that the tragic massacre in Walton county near Monroe has political im-

(Continued on page 283)

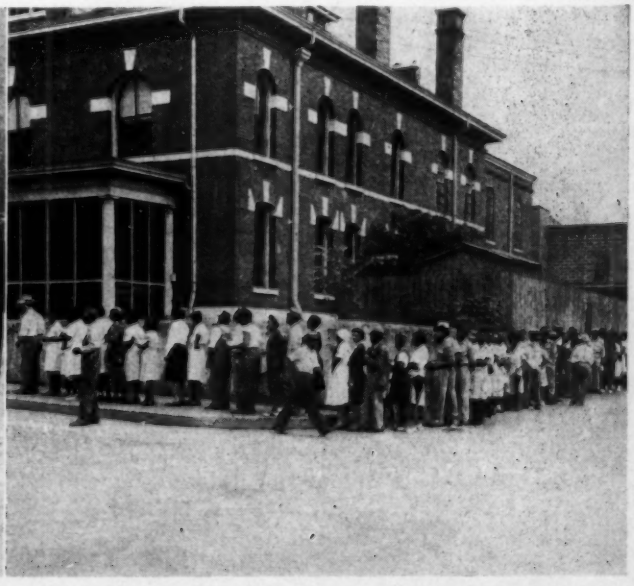
HEARINGS in suits attacking the constitutionality of the Georgia county-unit system began August 16 in the federal court at Atlanta. One of the suits would invalidate the nomination of Eugene Talmadge as Democratic candidate for governor in the July primary. The other would prevent certification of Judge James C. Davis as a Democratic nominee for Congress from the Fifth District.

Both suits contest, under the 14th Amendment of the Federal Constitution, the legality of the enactment of the Georgia legislature setting up the county-unit system. Since purpose of the unit-system is to reduce the weight of the urban population no county, regardless of population, can have more than six unit-votes. And even the sparsely populated counties have two.

The complainants (Mrs. Robert Lee Turman, Cullen B. Gosnell, and Earl P. Cook, all white) are private citizens and allege that their votes cast in the primary elections received less than their due weight because of the unit-system, and that their federal rights were thus abridged.

A few of the 20,000 Negroes who registered in Atlanta. Right, Negro voters lined up at the Cobb county courthouse waiting their turns to cast ballots.

Lyons & Carruthers *Acme*



Removing Our Health Burden*

By W. Montague Cobb

IT is my honor to represent, as a member of its national medical committee, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in support of the National Health Bill, S.1606. The National Association, founded in 1909, has over 520,000 members, organized into 1,100 branches, youth councils and college chapters in forty-three states. It is the oldest and largest organization devoted to the securing of equal rights and opportunities for the more than 14,000,000 citizens who constitute America's most disadvantaged tenth. In its constant attention to the job for which it was organized and to which it is unswervingly committed, the NAACP knows it is safeguarding the democratic privileges of *all* American citizens, and at the same time is defining America in terms of democracy to the rest of the world[1] The Association approaches the problem of health in the interest of the common welfare.

Numerous comprehensive and detailed studies have adequately defined, proved and stressed the urgent need of proper medical care for all Americans. No program previously proposed or instituted has indicated ability to close the gap between advances in medical technology, on the one hand, and the social and economic arrangements by which medical services are made available, on the other.[2]

President Truman's message to Congress of November 19, 1945, marked the first time in our history that a full length presidential message has been devoted exclusively to the subject of health This message reflected significantly both the importance of the problem and the exhaustive consideration which all its aspects had received. The President recommended legislation embodied in the present bill. This Association is most acutely aware of the need for such legislation in respect to that segment of the population which it primarily represents. It cannot be overemphasized, however, that health is not a racial problem, that the health

Since the law has been the best safeguard of the underprivileged, adequate medical care for all citizens would be better obtained by national legislation

Acme

Conditions like this broken ceiling in a Harlem apartment add to the Negro's health burden.

conditions of Negroes are largely a reflection of their socio-economic circumstances, and that poor health in any segment of the population is a hazard to the nation as a whole.

In the seven years since February 1939 when the first National Health Bill, S.1620, was introduced in the Senate, the salient facts about all phases of our national health have become public knowledge, so that topical reference to a few items will suffice to establish background for the NAACP's advocacy of the present bill.

Negro Death Rate

Even though health conditions in the country as a whole are far from satisfactory, the plight of the Negro is worse than that of the white. In 1940, the latest census year, the standardized death rate for the country was 8.2 per 1000 for whites and 14.0 for Negroes, a mortality rate 71 percent higher than the white. In 1930 the Negro excess was 82 percent. In that year, the Negro mortality in the Registration States was 81 percent higher than the white in rural areas and 95 percent higher in cities, a fact of especial significance in view of the continued urban migration of Negroes.[3]

In 1940 the life expectation of Negroes at birth was about ten years less than that of whites, the expectancy being for males, 52.26 years in Negroes and 62.81 years in whites, and for females, 55.56 years in Negroes and 67.29 years in whites.[4]

The consistent population increase shown by the Negro in spite of the high mortality and morbidity he has suffered has been due chiefly to his high birth rate which in 1942 was 23.3 as compared with 20.7 for the white. But the reproductive process in the Negro is attended with almost double the rate of casualties that prevails in the white. In 1942 the Negro mtaernal death rate was 5.5 and the white 2.2; the Negro infant mortality rate was 64.2 and the white 37.3; and the stillbirth rate was 50.5 in the Negro and 25.5 in the white.[5]

In retrospect, this approximately current unfavorable health picture shows considerable improvement over the past. The Negro mortality rate has declined from 24.1 in 1910 to 14.8 in 1943.[4] Since 1910 Negro life expectancy has increased about ten years or 25 percent.[3] There has been significant decrease also in reproductive mortality.[6]

Under similar environmental conditions there should be no appreciable racial differences in mortality or life expectation. The circumstances attending the arrival of the Negro in America as well as those under which he has lived here both connote an inherent constitutional hardihood. Certainly, a people which has contributed Paul Robeson, Jesse Owens, Joe Louis, Henry Armstrong and a galaxy of athletes of similar caliber, cannot be said to be genetically lacking in physical stamina.

The NAACP has two chief points of interest in the profile of Negro health just outlined; first, that the excess Negro mortality and concomitant morbidity

* Statement in support of the National Health Bill, S. 1606, on behalf of the NAACP, presented at hearings on S. 1606 held by the U. S. Senate Committee on Education and Labor, April 16, 1946.

are due to preventable causes, and, second, that as improvements are achieved, the Negro generally lags behind the white, indicating that he does not share as rapidly or as fully in the application of medical advances, even though the general progress is far from optimal due to conditions the present bill is designed to correct.

Diseases for which the cause and mode of transmission or development are known, and for which a specific control program has been established are preventable. Nearly all disease showing excess mortality in the Negro fall into this category. High occurrence of these conditions is also associated with any group of low economic status where there is ignorance, overcrowding, poor nutrition, bad sanitation and lack of medical care.

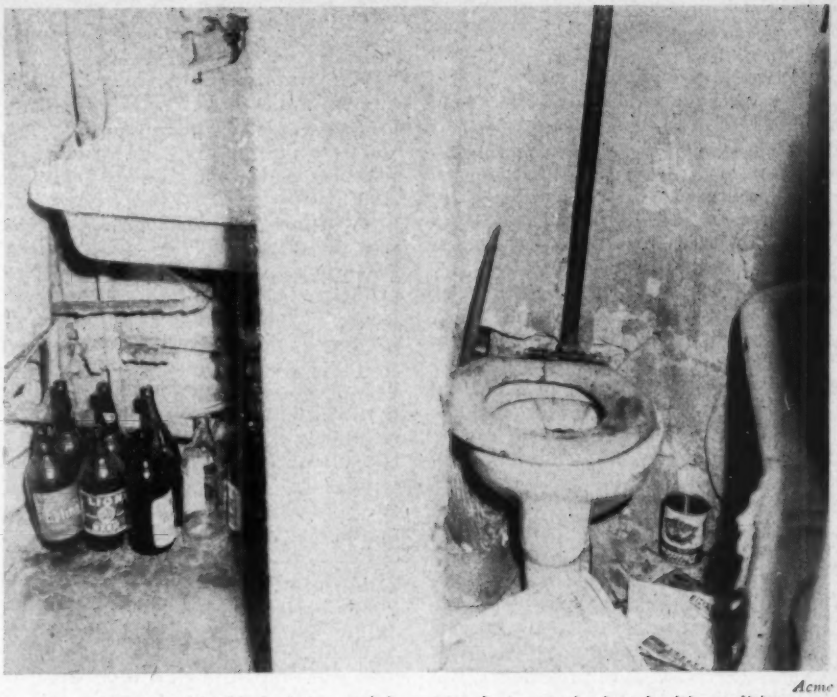
The National Health Survey of 1935-36 found that the amount of disability per person due to illnesses which incapacitated for a week or longer was 43 percent higher in the Negro than in the white population. The higher disability rate for Negroes was due chiefly to chronic diseases which disabled the average Negro eight days per year compared with five days for the average white person. The higher rate was observed for all disease groups. Pneumonia was almost twice as frequent in Negroes as in whites and certain chronic diseases —the cardiovascular-renal group, rheumatism, and asthma and hay fever— were of significantly higher rate.[7]

The Survey noted that improvement of standard of living associated with a rising income increased the health status of Negroes as measured by various indicia of illness. The average Negro in the non-relief class experienced only one half the disability per year as the Negro on relief. The survey concluded that low economic status, rather than inherent racial characteristics in reaction to disease appeared to account principally for the higher disability rate in Negroes.[7]

In the light of these facts, the NAACP has a natural and vital interest in any measures which make for the improvement of the general health, particularly that of the economically poorly circumstanced. The first part of S.1606, Title 1, Part A, providing for measures against venereal diseases and tuberculosis deals with preventable conditions associated with low economic status which unduly ravage Negroes. The tuberculosis mortality rate in the Negro is more than three times that in the white. It has been stated that syphilis occurs six times more frequently in Negroes than in whites.[8] Because of the unfortunate tendency on the part of many, including even some health officials, to make invidious racial implications from such data, it is desirable to quote a statement from H. H. Hazen's authoritative monograph, "Syphilis in the Negro."[9]

> The problem transcends racial boundaries. Where the Negro syphilis rate is high the rate in the white groups as well is likely to be unusually high. One finds, by comparison of these areas with those having lower rates for both Negro and white that a less vigorous effort has been made to control the disease. Treatment facilities in the areas of high prevalence prove to have been inadequate and largely inaccessible. Likewise, the public is not well informed on the value of early and adequate treatment in arresting the disease and in preventing its spread. And he reaches the conclusion that the most outstanding characteristic of these areas of high prevalence is a low economic status in a large proportion of the population. . . .
>
> Despite the alliance of syphilis and poverty, syphilis has receded wherever the people have been informed of the methods of prevention, detection and cure, and meanwhile, provided with facilities for obtaining treatment irrespective of their financial status.

The same spirit of cooperation from the people has been manifest in the application of newer techniques for the control of tuberculosis. Communities tend to welcome such measures, as mass x-ray surveys, when they have been made to understand the objectives.



Acme

An apartment with this bath is certainly not conducive to the best health conditions.

Tuberculosis in Negroes

Tuberculosis mortality in white adults has declined at a more rapid pace than the total death rate from the beginning of the century through 1943, the last year of available data. This was true also in Negro adults until 1935. From 1935 through 1937 the rate of decline was essentially the same as that of the total death rate, but beginning with 1938 and for each subequent year the decline in tuberculosis mortality has been less than that of deaths from all causes.[10] This would indicate that since 1938, progress against tuberculosis mortality in the Negro has not been as satisfactory as against deaths from all other causes combined.

Title I, Part B, providing for grants to states for maternal and child health services, like Part A, deals with a phase of health where the Negro has vital need. In this group, between 1915 and 1942, the maternal mortality rate had been reduced from 10.6 to 5.5; infant mortality from 181.2 to 64.2; still births from 73.4 (1922) to 50.5. Yet, as already stated these final figures are approximately twice the comparable rates for the white.

More than four fifths of Negro babies are born in the Southern States; two thirds are born in rural areas; four fifths are born in States where per capita income is below the national average. The wholehearted acceptance by the Negro of health facilities so far made available warrants all possible development and expansion of activities which will bring Negro mothers safely through childbirth and Negro infants

safely through the first year of life.[11]

Title I, Part C, of the bill, dealing wih grants to states for medical care of needy persons, is an obvious necessity, which appears to be universally recognized, as one of the chief opponents of the bill, the American Medical Association, in its National Health Program of February 23, 1946, recommends that for medical care of the needy, local funds be supplemented "with the assistance of federal funds when necessary."[12]

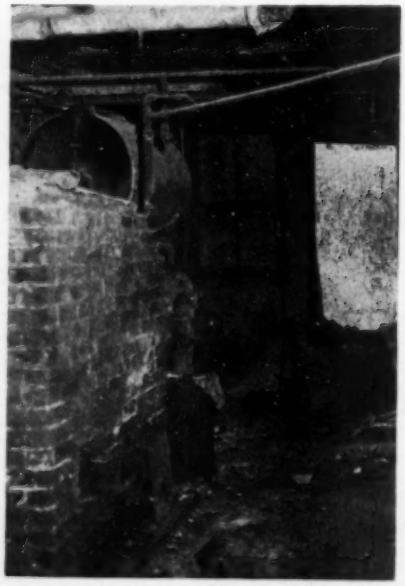
Title I of the bill referring to grants to states for health services and specifically to provisions for venereal diseases, tuberculosis, maternal and child welfare, and the care of the indigent, appears in all its subdivisions to cover vital areas of need for medical care in our country today. The need for the measures provided for in this title is particularly acute among our Negro citizens.

With the plans for the administration of S.1606, the NAACP must have certain vital concerns. About 79 percent of our Negro population are concentrated in the seventeen southern states where they comprise approximately one fourth of the total population. Another 18 percent live in the three Middle Atlantic and five North Central States, making a total of 97 percent in these twenty-five states. Until very recently about 90 percent of those living in the South were rural dwellers in contrast to 80 percent urbaniaztion of these living in the North.[9] These facts of regional and rural and urban concentration would entail variations in the mechanics, but not the principles of procedure in implementing the bill as it would affect the Negro.

The NAACP is concerned that, irrespective of the means by which it would be planned to implement the bill in any locality, there should be no discrimination against any citizens because of race, creed, color or national origin. It is concerned that in the provisions for training of the large new personnel that will be needed for State and local health work, Negroes be integrated into the program at all levels, administrative as well as professional, without respect to section of the country.

The Association is further concerned that in the needs for medical care and facilities to be determined by the respective states, the same standards should be used for such determination for all political subdivisions of the states and for all citizens.

Title II of the bill, referring to prepaid personal health service benefits, appears to have many progressive features in keeping with democratic practice. The provisions for a national advisory council and local advisory councils on which both the professions and the public would have representation extends representation to areas where it has not extended before, and affords an opportunity to the public and to groups of the professions, which hitherto have not had such opportunity, to work for the improvement of both the national health and that of their own communities. The Association does not find, as has been frequently alleged, that the traditional free choice of physician by patient, and patient by physician, has been impaired by the provisions of the bill. Section 205, (A) specifically states in effect that any physician, dentist, or nurse legally qualified to practice in a state shall be qualified to furnish services. Section 205, (B) states very clearly that every person entitled to receive general medical, or general dental benefits shall be permitted to select, from among participating practitioners, those from whom he shall receive such benefit subject to the consent of the practitioner or group of practitioners selected, and every such individual and every group of such individuals shall be perimtted to make such selection through a representative of his or their own choosing and to change such selections. The remaining provisions of this section all are directed at ensuring not only that achieved medical standards be maintained, but shall be advanced. It is further specifically stated that "payment shall be adequate, especially in terms of annual income or its equivalent and by reference to annual income customarily received among physicians, dentists or nurses having regard for age, specialization, and type of community; and payment shall be comensurate with skill, experience and responsibility involved in furnishing the service." Were it not for the fact that fees can be paid in a variety of ways it would still be impossible for the Association to see any way whereby medical care, even under the bill, could be extended to those particularly economically underprivileged areas where it is most sorely needed.



Acme

Dark cellars like this breed vermin and bacteria, but overcrowding and segregation often make it difficult for Negroes to escape such conditions.

Provides Doctors

In the past it has been impossible for physicians to remain long in either rural or urban areas where they are needed most, because of lack of facilities on the one hand and the fact that the population was too poor to afford them an adequate income on the other. The Hill-Burton Hospital Construction Bill, S.191, which has been passed by the Senate and which has received endorsement of the American Medical Association, would provide a means for the construction of lacking facilities. For the first time, S.1606, offers a means whereby the necessary professional personnel could be paid in such areas. As has been repeatedly pointed out in earlier testimony, no form of voluntary prepayment medical insurance could be of benefit to these people, because they could not afford it. In this connection it should be emphasized that the furor over free choice of physicians can have no meaning for millions of Negroes as well as of millions of whites in poor economic circumstances, because down the years these people have been without any medical services whatever. Oft-times when such services have been available they have been the indifferent services of physicians who do not want them as patients or similarly unsatisfactory services of crowded clinics.

Major objection to the bill from the medical profession has been voiced by the American Medical Association; consequently the counterproposals of this organization have been studied with great interest. In the considered judgment of the Association these counterproposals are far inferior to the proposals of the National Health Bill. The American Medical Association's proposal, as stated in its *Journal* of February 23, 1946, recognizes apparently that some form of prepayment medical insurance is necessary, and it is the determination of the American people to obtain such insurance. There may be said, therefore, to be general agreement that prepayment medical insurance is both necessary and desirable. Operating

(Continued on page 282)

A $3.00 HAIRCUT

THE possibility of an "educational" out-of-court settlement of a racial discrimination suit against a Madison, Wis., barber who charged a Negro minister $3.00 for a haircut was virtually eliminated with the transfer of the case from superior to circuit court. A jury trial in the fall will now be necessary and will give more widespread publicity to the circumstances of the case.

The minister is the Rev. M. Boyde Patrick, pastor of St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal church, who on June 26 had to pay four times the accepted men's haircut price of 75 cents in Madison. The barber is William H. Stratman, who is now free on $100 bail awaiting the trial which was to have been held in the superior court this week. Transfer of the case to the circuit court, which ranks just below the Wisconsin supreme court on the judicial ladder, was agreed upon in a stipulation between Atty. Lester Lee, representing Stratman, and Assistant disrict attorney George Rapp of Dane county.

The dispute, which court officials at first sought to have settled by an "educational process' instead of in the courts, has attracted considerable attention in this state capital city, with the Journeymen Barbers' International Association of America, Local 153, supporting Stratman and the Madison branch of the American Veterans Committee (AVC) backing Mr. Patrick in his stand.

After Mr. Patrick had refused to agree to a compromise solution in the form of the establishment of a jim crow barber shop, he insisted at conciliatory conferences between representatives of the barber's union, the district attorney's office, and himself that the matter be brought to trial. In circuit court the alleged violation of the Wisconsin statute protecting individuals against denial of rights will be tried before a 12-man jury, while if it had come to trial in superior court it would have been decided by the superior judge.

Mr. Patrick has shown the district attorney a receipt Stratman gave him for the $3.00 haircut, and letters Stratman wrote to the minister asking him to take his business elsewhere.

"Received from Rev. Patrick $3 for one haircut," the receipt read.

"I am informed that there is a colored barber shop in town and not being used to cutting that kind of hair, and the man who works for me won't cut them any more, I would rather that you and your boys would get it cut elsewhere," one of Stratman's letters to Patrick said. Mr. Patrick said there is no colored barber shop in Madison and that some Negroes have to go to Beloit, Wis., more than 60 miles away, to get a haircut.

Calling attention to the fact that there was no OPA ceiling on haircuts, Stratman said, "We can charge what we like, so for hair like yours the price is $3."

The AVC, in a letttr to the editor of the *Wisconsin State Journal*, termed Stratman's policy "reactionary and un-American," and asked Madison's citizens to take an active interest in the case. The veterans' group charged the district attorney with being afraid to try the matter and ridiculed his attempts at settlement by "educational means."

The district attorney, Norris E. Maloney, who had just refused an invitation to appear at a meeting of the barbers' union because he considered it unfair to discuss the matter when both sides were not present, refuted the AVC statement and said:

"The principles embodied in the statute and in the constitution relative to no racial discrimination can be more efficaciously achieved by an educational process with an enlightened public than by force through prosecution. When the educational processes fail, then prosecutions are necessary."

DANIEL T. SULLIVAN

RACE IN LAS VEGAS

THOUGH Las Vegas is in the southwestern part of the western state of Nevada, a Negro living there might just as well be in southwestern Alabama so far as jim crow is concerned. Las Vegas, and the name is Spanish for plains, lies in the western desert and is very dry and dusty. It's a small place, with a population of 8,422, and just a sprinkling of Negroes.

Negroes in Las Vegas, as in similar southern places, live on the west side of town where the streets are minus pavements, street lights, and fire plugs. More dust piles up here than in other parts of town. Mail delivery is desultory, and though there are many discharged veterans eager to carry the "sack" the postmaster says he must first get permission from Washington before he can increase his carrier staff.

Negroes own two cafes in up-town Las Vegas but they have been condemned and their proprietors will have to move to the west side.

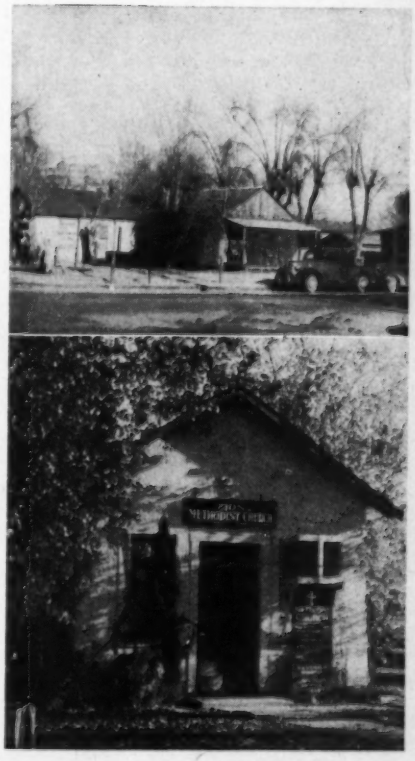
Las Vegas like Reno is a wide-open town but no Negroes are allowed in the clubs except as janitors and porters. Some of them once had a club of their own on North 1st S street but they, too, had to close.

Negroes are permitted to attend the theatres, but they occupy special sections. Black and white children attend the same schools but when lunch time comes around they are not permitted to eat in the cafeterias with their white schoolmates. This same segregated pattern is followed in the public restaurants.

Despite handicaps the Negroes of Las Vegas are making progress. They are building and buying comfortable homes; their businesses are growing and their lodges are expanding. They have a few special policemen, and colored veniremen are used in some of the legal cases involving Negroes.

During the war Las Vegas was a boom town suffering from all the ills that afflict such towns. The many Negroes among the newcomers naturally aggravated the problems of the local Negro citizentry, but, with the help of the local NAACP, the oldtimers are teaching the newcomers how to adjust themselves.

VERLENE STEVENS

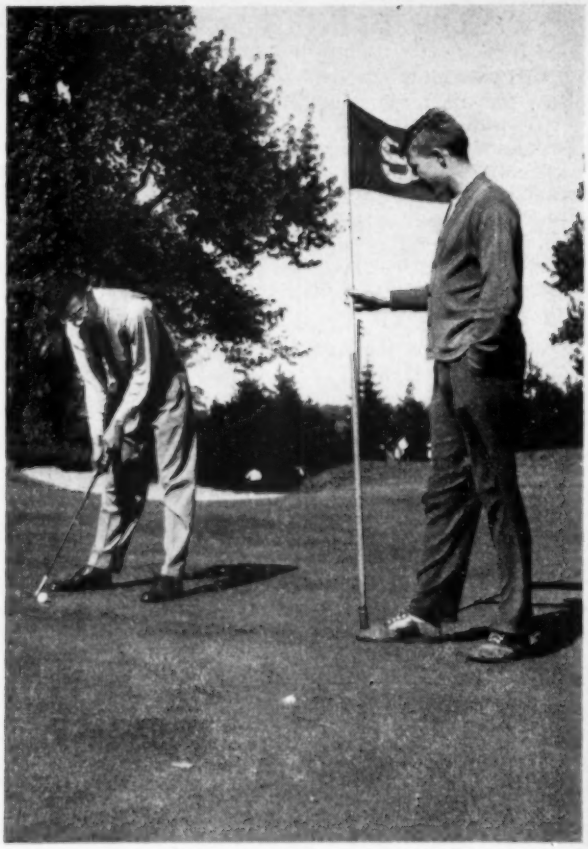


A street in Las Vegas Nevada, and (bottom) the Negro Methodist church.

NEGRO VETERANS RETURN TO COLLEGE

Negro ex-GIs attend the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, with freedom, as pictures on this and the next page show.

Luzine and fellow accounting school students hold a quick review session under the shade of campus oaks before going into that 11 o'clock exam.



Not quite a hole in one, but Luzine sizes things up for a hole-in-two on the university golf course.

Bottom—Nightly study and here Luzine Bickham, former flight officer in the USAAF, thinks out a problem in his audit ledger. Luzine, a native of New Orleans, La., is now a student in the school of business administration at the university.

Luzine and opponents Embra Bouie, graduate student in physical education from Baltimore, Md., and Bess Washington, graduate student in library science from Baton Rouge, La., look on while Elaine Hunter, graduate student in mathematics from Norfolk, Va., debates between "a higher or a lower" at a Saturday night bridge game.

NEGRO VETERANS AT MICHIGAN

Rusty after the Army routine, Luzine, accompanied by Elaine Hunter, brushes up on some of his favorite tunes from "Show Boat."

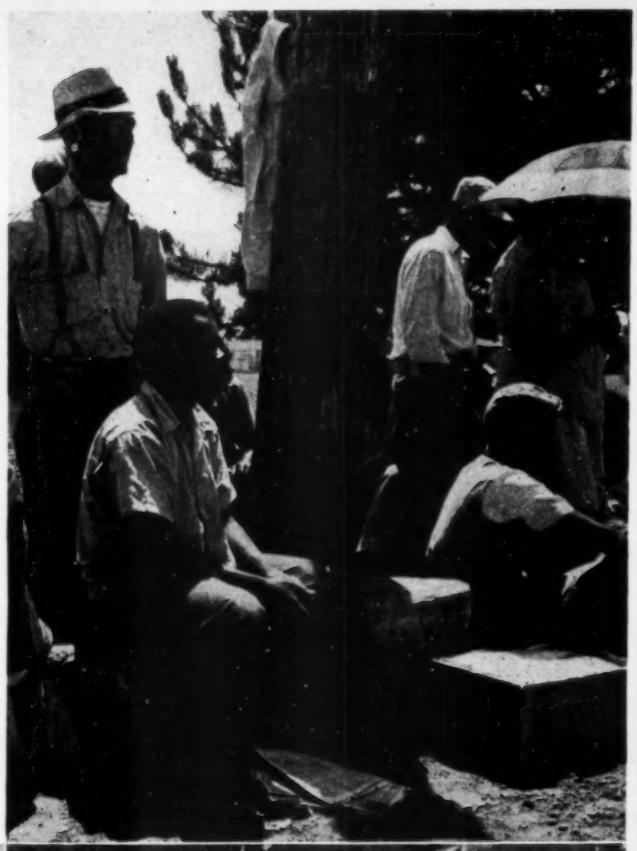
All photos by Martha McMillan

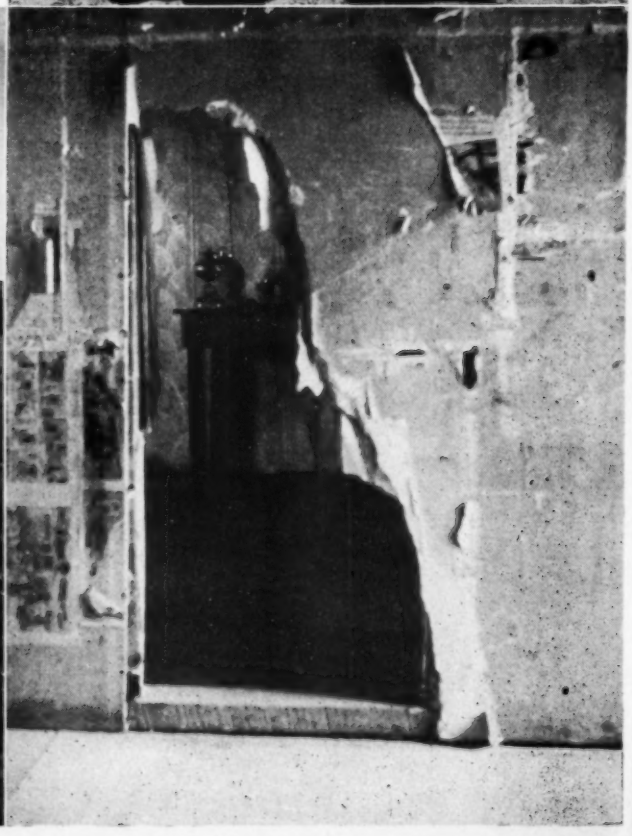
Sunday afternoon meeting of Luzine's fraternity, the Epsilon chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha. (L. to R.) James W. White, graduate student in engineerng from Dallas, Texas; LeRoy Daggs, pre-law student from Saginaw, Mich.; Harold Robinson, graduate student in engineering from Ann Arbor, Mich.; Luzine Bickham; Melvin Chapman, student in sociology from Ann Arbor, Mich.; Julius Franks Jr., student in psychology from Detroit, Mich.; Ralph M. Gibson, graduate student in psychology from Cleveland, Ohio; John Hall, pre-medical student from Buffalo, N. Y.; Romeo Cherot, student in history from New York City; Louis Willie, graduate student in business administration from Dallas, Texas; Wendell Williams, student in pharmacy from Pontiac, Mich.; Wagner Willis, graduate student in sociology from Ann Arbor, Mich.; Julian Witherspoon, pre-medical student from Detroit, Mich. (All but one of these students is a veteran)

PENNSYLVANIA, NOT MISSISSIPPI

FOR several months now some two hundred Negro and white migratory workers, many of them veterans, have been on strike in protest against the substandard wages, the unsanitary living conditions, and the terroristic methods of the Starkey brothers. Since the men have been on strike they have been terrorized by the burning of fiery crosses, the firing of shots, and beatings.

If you didn't know your geography, you would expect these horrors to be in Mississippi, not Pennsylvania, which is one of our "progressive Northern states." No conditions in Mississippi ever surpassed in meanness those flourishing on the Starkey Farms. The situation there is indescribably horrible, with people living on the lowest possible level. Fifty families—between 150 and 200 persons—are crammed into five old barns and stables and a converted chicken coop not even a fit habitation for fowls. These old shacks have been built into one-room apartments, and families, with from three to thirteen members, are stuffed into this one room. Veterans, fresh from a war in which they fought to make the world a better place in which to live, find themselves and their families crammed into unsanitary fire-traps with leaking roofs, rickety staircases, and no toilet facilities or plumbing of any kind. Excellent plant beds for all kinds of disease.





Some of the strikers and samples of living conditions on the Starkey farm.

Fifty families share the two privies, one for men and one for women, and the striking workers say that these John's have not been cleaned for six years. One extremely old water-pump supplies a slow trickle of water, and it is located very near the outdoor privies. To call these conditions medieval is to put it mildly. The migratory workers who work in different parts of the country in different seasons claim that these conditions are worse than any they have found in any section of the South.

The Starkey farm also has its own jim-crow system. Quarters of the Negro and white families are separated by a distance of about one quarter of a mile. Even the living conditions of the white workers in their so-called homes only seem a trifle better than those of the Negroes. From the outside their structures appear to be in much better condition; on the inside, however, one finds the conditions equally miserable. Although most of the striking workers come from the South, there is a friendly feeling beween the white and Negro groups. They have a sense of oneness in the strike; a feeling of good fellowship that is helped to a great extent by the fact that there are both white and Negro stewards among the striking workers.

Many of the workers on strike, who came to the Starkey Farms in 1940, still receive the same forty cents an hour they began with; others have received a five cents increase. No overtime pay is given for the backbreaking hours—often totaling 72 a week—in the broiling hot sun, which is computed on the basis of an eight-hour day.

School isn't encouraged at the Starkey Farms and little children as young as six may be seen laboring in the fields. Their pay ranges from fifteen cents to thirty-five cents an hour, depending on their age level. In Pennsylvania and elsewhere, the child labor law exempts children who work in agriculture. According to statements of the strikers, the Starkey brothers use children in their canneries, however; though this is against the law. It is claimed that when federal inspectors come to investigate the situtation, the children are hustled out the back door.

No wonder these workers are striking! As one of the workers put it, "Things can't be much worse than they are when we are working. The pay we get doesn't do much more than keep our bodies together."

The fiery cross which was burned in the Negro neighborhood is only one of the intimidating devices used by the company to break worker morale. Shots have been fired into the homes of several of the striking workers, and in one instance a bullet narrowly missing a small child. The company has patched over some of the windows to conceal these bullet holes. However, in one window of an apartment the bullet hole is still clearly visible. Terrific pressure is being applied to make the workers return to the fields, and the company keeps a steady stream of produce-laden trucks, filled by the strike-breakers, going past the picket lines in order to prove to the sriking workers that their protest against inhuman conditions is futile. And to make the workers still more uncomfortable, the plane which sprays the crops makes no attempt to avoid spraying the men on the picket line.

Willie Barber, 12-year-old striker . . . shots were fired into his home.

Another sad aspect of the situation has been the importation of strike-breakers by a Negro minister, a Rev. Wells of Philadelphia, who brings in truck loads of workers through the picket lines each day to the Starkey Farms. This action is bitterly resented by Negro strikers who feel Mr. Wells is betraying his own people and perpetuating the stereotype idea of the Negro as a strike breaker. Civic and community leaders have been trying to reach Mr. Wells but to no avail.

Another unfortunate situation is the role of the teamsters local involved, yet the main responsibility rests solely on the shoulders of Mr. Starkey. It is his fault that these feudal conditions are allowed to continue; it is his fault that workers are paid a starvation wage; it is his fault that strike-breaking and terrorization of striking workers goes on. It is Mr. Starkey who cannot be reached by committees seeking to thrash out this matter. It is Mr. Starkey who refuses to negotiate with the union of the workers' choice.

All this adds up to one obvious conclusion. Mr. Starkey is not interested in changing the conditions on his farm. Therefore, it is up to the people who are interested in keeping these medieval conditions from spreading to the whole state to see that the situation at the Starkey Farms changes. Pressure must be brought to bear on governor Martin and the state legislature to do something about these wretched, squalid conditions. Civic-minded organizations and individuals cannot ignore, with clear consciences, the "slave conditions" on the Starkey farms.

BEN SEGAL

(*All photographs by Edward Gallob*)

A SCENE FOR TWO

I've got a drama just for two,
Its full of romance and the moon,—
And I'll feature you.

No extra girl can fill this part,
For every word is from my heart,
No make believe—this is true?
I'il have to feature you.

There'll be scenery oh! gee! gosh,
Mother Nature's work of art,
Lovers past, present, and future,
Will look like college froshs,
When my heart features you.

—J. DALLAS WILLIAWS

MINE IS NO PLEA

Mine is no plea for beggar's alms
Nor mercy from my flailing fate.
I seek not wealth's deceptive charms,
Nor demagogue's imperiled estate.
I strive not even for your love—
I plead no long—I demand!—
Your recognition—nothing more—
That, black of skin, I am a man!

WILLIAM COUSINS.

BLACK GAUNTLET

Yes, I dreamed once—
As do all youth—
Of armor bright, and stallion white
And odds o'ercome in valiant strife.
And so I sent my challenge out to life—
To find—that he had challenged first—
And made me black.

WILLIAM COUSINS.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

SOUTHERN SCHRECKLICHKEIT

THE ISAAC WOODARD CASE: Southern police contempt for human decency and dignity where Negroes are concerned is made clear in the case of the brutal blinding of Isaac Woodard, a twenty-seven-year old Negro veteran, by Batesburg, S. C., police. The wholly unnecessary and unbelievably fiendish beating and blinding of Woodward took place hardly more than three hours after the veteran's discharge from a mobilization center.

Woodard, who spent fifteen monhts in the Philippines and New Guinea with the 429th Port Battalion, served in the Army from October 13, 1942, to February 12, 1946, when he received an honorable discharge from Camp Gordon, Ga.

After his discharge from Camp Gordon, Woodard took a Greyhound bus in Atlanta, Ga., for Winnesboro, S. C., where he was to pick up his wife for a trip to New York to visit his parents. Somewhere between Atlanta and Aiken, S. C., Woodard got into an altercation with the driver over a "comfort stop." When the bus reached Batesburg, the driver had Woodard arrested for creating a disturbance. Neither the driver nor the police gave him a chance to explain, and when they got him to the jail the police pummelled and beat Woodard until he was unconscious, crunching out his eyes with the end of a billy.

Next morning Woodard was taken before the local judge and offered the choice of a $50 fine or thirty days on the road. But having only $40 cash and his mustering out check of $694.73, which he refused to sign, Woodward was taken back to the jail where the cops made clumsy attempts to treat his now sightless eyes. The police later took him to the veterans' hospital at Columbia, S. C., where he stayed from February 13 to April 13, 1946, until he was released in custody of his sisters.

The Association has demanded that the Department of Justice investigate the beating and blinding of Woodard and that the guilty parties be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. On July 15, Howard C. Peterson, assistant secretary of war, notified the NAACP that Woodard's case is "now under study by the governor of South Carolina, the Veterans' Administration, and the Department of Justice."

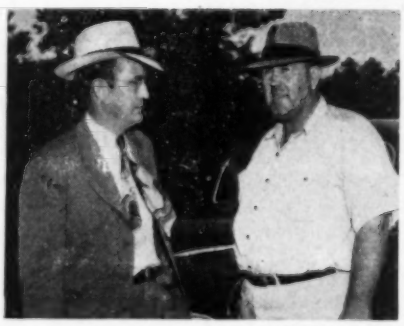
Mr. Peterson adds that "by reason of the fact that Woodard was a civilian at the time of this unfortunate incident and no longer a member of the Army or under military contract, the case does not come within jurisdiction of the War Department."

On July 24, at an Association sponsored meeting of veterans' organizations in the Wendell Willkie Memorial building, a reward of $1,000 was posted for any person or persons supplying information that will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the policemen responsible for the outrageous attack upon Woodard. On August 10 Woodard was admitted to membership in the Blinded Veterans Association at organization headquarters, 80 Warren Street, New York City. The NAACP has already had the American Red Cross file an application for full compensation for Woodard with the Veterans Administration.

In the meantime funds are pouring into the national office to aid Woodard. Ethel S. Epstein, former labor secretary under LaGuardia, enclosed a check for $250. Employees of the Dell Publishing company in New York have also contributed funds for the blinded veteran. Joe Louis, heavyweight boxing champion, sponsored a benefit for Woodard at the Lewisohn Stadium on August 16. Contributions to date total $2,118.89.

The public is warned that the NAACP is the only organization authorized and retained by Isaac Woodard to handle any matters connected with his case.

On August 17 police chief L. I. Shaw of Batesburg, S. C., admitted that he was the man who attacked and blinded Woodard. Batesburg, a small town of 3,000, is twenty-eight miles north of Aiken.



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Press Association

LYNCH VICTIMS– *Friends of George Dorsey and Roger Malcolm and their wives, shot to death by a mob on July 25, pay their respects in a funeral home at Monroe, Ga. Loy Harrison (right), from whose car the victims were pulled, claims that he was unable to identify any members of the mob. He is talking to Major William E. Spence of the GBI. Coroner W. T. Brown places a sheet over the body of one of the victims.*

GEORGIA MOB-LAW: One of the most vicious lynchings in recent Georgia history took place in Walton county near Monroe on July 25 when a mob shot to death two Negro men and their wives. Roger Malcolm, a twenty-seven-year-old Negro farmhand, his wife, his sister and his sister's husband, George Dorsey, a recently discharged veteran, were waylaid on a lonely road en route from Monroe to the farm of Loy Harrison. Harrison, an ex-convict, had just signed a $600 bond to free Roger Malcolm, who had been charged with stabbing a white man a few weeks earlier.

Ten miles out of Monroe, Harrison turned off into a shortcut home. Harrison says that when he reached the bridge over Apalachee creek he found the span blocked by a band of unmasked white men armed with shotguns, rifles, and pistols. The leader of the mob, dressed in a wide-brimmed straw hat and wearing a brown suit, walked up to the car, pointed to the men and said: "We want those niggers." As their husbands were being led away, one of the women shrieked out the name of a member of the mob. The leader then ordered the women to be pulled out. All four Negroes were then marched into the nearby woods and riddled with bullets.

Though the leader and members of the mob were unmasked, Loy Harrison contends that he recognized no one. Such unacquaintance is indeed strange in those parts where almost everybody within a forty-mile radius is on terms of well-nigh gabby intimacy with everybody else, and where strangers are dubbed "furriners."

Major W. E. Spence of the Georgia State Bureau of Investigation (GSBI) says that investigation of the lynching is slow because people in Monroe county refuse to talk. Governor Ellis Arnall has offered $10,000 in rewards for inforamtion leading to the solution of the crime. And the NAACP has matched this sum with another $10,000. Many private organizations have augmented the funds posted by Georgia and the NAACP, bringing the total rewards to about $30,000. President Truman says that the FBI is still pushing its investigations of the lynchings but that he has no official information on the progress of Attorney General Clark's inquiry.

On August 6 the Association called a joint meeting in New York of forty national organizations to make plans for unified action against the increasing number of acts of mob violence throughout the country. The group drew up a tentative program of procedure and voted to send telegrams to

ISAAC WOODARD, *blinded by Batesburg, S. C., police last February.*

President Truman and Attorney General Tom Clark asking them to throw the full force of the federal government into a drive to bring lynchers before the bar of justice. A resolution requesting Congress to reconvene and to enact federal anti-mob violence legislation was considered, as well as a proposal that joint labor-management committees be set up in each industrial area to work toward the removal of race tension, segregation, and discrimination in employment by publicity and enactment of necessary legislation.

The Association also sent telegrams to 263 members of the House of Representatives requesting that congressmen sign Discharge Petition No. 3, which would bring the anti-lynching bill, H. R. 1698 onto the floor of the House for consideration. H. R. 1698 was introduced early in this congressional session but has been held up by the rules committee, which has prevented it from being brought to the floor for consideration and debate. Two hundred and eighteen signatures of representatives are needed on the petition in order to get it out of the rules committee, but up to July 29 the petition lacked one hundred signatures.

MRS. GERTRUDE B. STONE, *who has resigned as secretary of the Washington, D. C., branch.*

ADDITIONAL MOB ITEMS: Mob acts of violence against Negroes are assuming alarming proportions. On August 14 the body of John C. Jones, a former army corporal, was found by a group of fishermen on Dorcheat Bayou near Minden, La. Examination of the body showed that Jones had met death as result of flogging. In Athens, Ala., a fist fight between a Negro and two white men touched off five hours of race rioting in which more than seventy-five Negroes were injured and trampled. Even the old and the crippled were not spared.

Several Negroes were injured during the GI-rioting in July at Athens, Tenn. On July 17 a mob killed the only Negro to vote in his district in Taylor county, Ga. Leon McTatie, a farmer, was whipped to death on July 22 at Lexington, Miss. And on August 3 John Gilbert, a Negro union member, was beaten to death at Gordon, Ga., by a white non-union mob.

COLUMBIA DEFENDANTS

LAWRENCEBURG TRIAL: Motion for change of venue for the twenty-five Negro defendants in the Columbia case has been denied, and the trial began in the court house at Lawrenceburg on August 13. A motion for postponement of the trial because of the illness of chief counsel Thurgood Marshall was also denied.

CLEMENCY PETITIONS

GI CLEMENT PLEAS: In recent months the legal department has addressed various clemency petitions to Secretary of War Patterson and President Truman protesting against either the unduly severe punishments meted out to allegedly guilty Negro GIs as well as the partiality shown in their court-martialing.

Among these cases are the following: That of Leamon Ivey, a former private in Company C, 870th Engineer Avn. Battalion, APO 75, tried by general court-martial on February 13, 1946, in the South Pacific for allegedly having stabbed a white serviceman. The petition stressed the point that Ivey had not been sufficiently identified as the attacker, and that it was a violation of his constitutional rights to hold him for

twenty days before bringing him to trial.

That of McKinley Moore, sentenced to be hanged by a general court-martial in Leipzig, Germany, for alleged rape. Moore, it seems, was the victim of erroneous identification. The petition to President Truman asked that Moore be pardoned.

That of Lawrence J. Everett, sentenced by a general court-martial at Saverne, France, to life imprisonment at hard labor for the alleged rape of a German woman. The petition points out the contradictory nature of the testimony of the supposed victim and her parents, and that the conviction was contrary to law.

That of Arthur C. Essex, given a ten-year sentence at hard labor by general court-martial on April 3, 1945, for allegedly disregarding the lawful orders of a superior officer.

That of John H. Thorpe, convicted by a general court-martial on November 11, 1944, for allegedly participating in an assault upon some military police. Thorpe was sentenced to dishonorable discharge and fifteen years at hard labor.

A petition in Thorpe's behalf was filed on December 19, 1945, asking for clemency. The plea was granted and on July 18, 1946, Thorpe wrote the NAACP that he had been returned to duty as a result of the efforts in his behalf.

Blakeley Studio

NATIONAL PANCAS *of the St. Louis Mo., branch.*

AGAIN THE PENNSYLVANIA

LOCKER-ROOM DISCRIMINATION: For the second time in six weeks the Pennsylvania railroad has been charged with discrimination before the New York State Commission Against Discrimination (SCAD). For the past six years Negro employes working in the yards and shop crafts in the Pennsylvania station in New York City have been forced to use an inconvenient locker room located two blocks away across dangerous railroad tracks, while their white fellow workers use a modern locker room adjacent to their working place. There is neither drinking fountain nor showers in the jim-crow locker room and when Negro employes have attempted to wash up in the "white" room they were told not to use it.

BABY CONTEST WINNERS *in the 1946 baby show of the Baltimore, Md., branch.*

Assistant special counsel, Marian Wynn Perry, presented these charges to SCAD on behalf of a large group of Negro employes, all of whom signed complaints. Previously, on June 3, 1946, the NAACP had presented a complaint against the use of super-seniority for white veterans in order to reduce the Negro employes with long company-service records to the lowest category of coach cleaners.

What The Branches Are Doing

ARKANSAS: The FORT SMITH branch reports 600 members. On July 10-11 it acted as host to the third annual state conference of the NAACP.

CALIFORNIA: The SAN FRANCISCO branch won another victory in its fight for equality on the home front when Emory Anderson received a cash settlement of $200 from the Burlington bus comany, after having been told by the driver, while traveling from Omaha, Nebraska, to San Francisco, to give up his seat in the front of the bus and to take a rear seat when the bus got to Reno, Nevada. Rather than accept a western brand of jim crowism, Mr. Anderson got off the bus at Reno and proceeded to San Farncisco by other means.

After arriving in San Francisco, he went to the Burlington office, where a report of the incident had already been received. They offered him a cash settlement of approximately $100, which Mr. Anderson refused.

Richard Gladstein of the law firm of Gladstein, Andersen, Resner, Sawyer and Edises, the legal redress committee of the San Francisco branch, was the attorney.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Reports from the annual conference and the presentation of awards to prize-winning membership campaign workers were the highlights of the July membership meeting of the WASHINGTON branch.

George E. C. Hayes, president, has announced the resignation of Mrs. Gertrude B. Stone as branch secretary. Mrs. Stone has been active as secretary and member of the branch executive committee since 1935. Her resignation became effective August 7.

In June the branch lost another veteran worker when Mrs. Louise B. Gibbs, who had served as office secretary for the past five years, resigned to join her husband in Chicago.

The branch has recently filed a suit against the Greyhound bus company on behalf of Samuel G. Foshee for damages resulting from a violation of his civil rights while occupying a seat on the bus in Washington. Mr. Foshee was on his way to Aberdeen, Md., when the bus driver refused to move the bus unless Mr. Foshee and his companion either moved to the rear of the bus or got off. The case is being handled by Austin L. Fickling of the branch legal redress committee.

Executive committee of the branch has voted to carry the Harper case through the District Court of Appeals.

The case deals with the question of the alleged unwarranted use of arresting authority by police officers when juveniles are arrested. The case goes back to March 14, 1944, when police entered the home of Ernest Harper, former president of the Kingman Park Civic Association, without a warrant and arrested his 14-year-old son, John. The Harpers were not at home at the time and John was forcibly removed to police headquarters where he was held for three hours of investigating on a charge of rape, of which he was later exonerated. Young Harper was denied permission to get in touch with his parents before the arrest.

The verdict at the trial was in favor of the defendant, but the trial judge, Justice Bailey of the District Court, set it aside on the grounds that it was contrary to the evidence. As a result of a second trial, Justice Goldsborough, surprisingly, directed the jury to find for the defendant. In view of the inconsistency of the two directions the branch has taken the case to the D. C. Court of Appeals. Leon A. Rasom and Austin L. Fickling are attorneys for the plaintiff.

IOWA: The WATERLOO branch closed its membership drive on June 16, and increased its membership from 140 to 500.

The IOWA BRANCHES OF THE NAACP held their seventh annual session in Centerville as guests of the youngest branch in the state. About fifty delegates were in attendance representing branches in Des Moines, Keokuk, Waterloo, Marshalltown, Cedar Rapids, Mason City, Ottumwa, Centerville, and Perry.

Among the resolutions adopted by the conference were the following: praise of the American Veterans Committee for its bold stand on equality regardless of race; thanks to the American Friends Service Committee for employing Negro teachers in Penn and Scattergood colleges in Iowa; and request that Negroes back measure for a state FEPC.

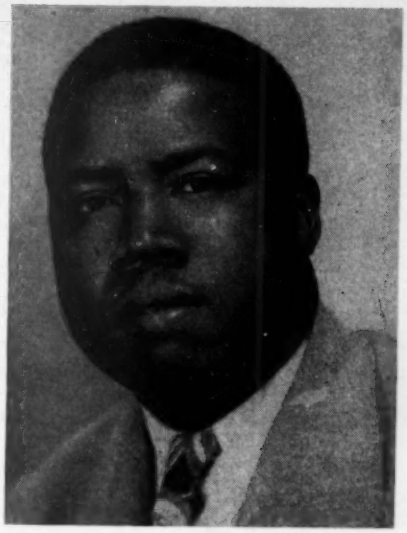
Elected officers of the conference are Ike Smalls, Des Moines, president; Mrs. Rose B. Johnson, Marshalltown, first vice-president; Mrs. P. L. Scott, Mason City, second vice-president; Mrs. C. H. Copeland, Council Bluffs, secretary; Mrs. Lyda Page, Waterloo, assistant secretary and treasurer; Rev. C. R. Parks, Cedar Rapids, youth advisor.

KANSAS: The Kansas state conference of NAACP branches gets out a very interesting, well written monthly paper called *The Record*. Editorial and subscription offices are located at 108 East E. avenue, Hutchinson, Kansas. R. C. D. Tieuel, Jr., is editor and business manager.

MICHIGAN: In answer to a wire from the DETROIT branch, Murray D. Van Wagoner, candidate for governor, wired Gloster Current, that he had drafted a plank for the Democratic platform "which calls for a state fair employment practice act."

In order to determine the extent of price rises in Negro communities, the branch has launched an emergency price survey of staple food items.

NEW BRANCH DIRECTOR



Morgan Smith

GLOSTER B. CURRENT, *writer, orator, musician, and former executive secretary of the Detroit, Mich., branch, is the new director of branches for the NAACP. Mr. Current began his duties in the national office on September 1. He was born in Detroit and educated at the local YMCA college and West Virginia State college. He has been assistant in the boys' department of the Antoine branch of the Detroit "Y," chairman of the Central Youth Council committee, and NAACP delegate to the World Youth Congress in London. As secretary of the Detroit branch, he was active in civic movements and played a prominent role in mapping Negro strategy in Detroit during the trying war years. Mr. Current has been active in NAACP work ever since 1936, and became a full-time Association worker in 1941 upon his graduation from college. He is married to Miss Leontine Turpeau of Cincinnati, Ohio, and is the father of two children, Angella, age four; and four-month-old Gloster, Jr.*

PANCAS *of the Roanoke, Va., branch. Back row L to R: Bennie Reynolds, J. A. Prunty, Walter Muse, C. X. Williams, James R. Johnson, Jr. (branch president), Lloyd Zieglar, W. C. Rose (branch secretary) Alfred Fuqua, Richard Birkes; front row: Justine K. Spencer (campaign director), Mrs. Pearl Henry (Panca secretary), Mrs. W. C. King, Mrs. Bernice Jordan, Mrs. McKinley Lee, and Mrs. J. A. Poindexter. Not shown in picture: Earl Preston, Mrs. R. A. Hamlar, Mrs. Ruth Hughes, Miss Sarah Brown. Total memberships 1,315; total Crisis subscriptions,* 69.

The branch is also continuing its fight against the discriminatory policies of the Bob-Lo Excursion company. Negro employees of Kresge were forbidden by a contract signed by the boat company from attending an outing of store employes. When the office employes of Kresge were going on an excursion on July 6, the Negro employes were advised that they could not attend because of the discriminatory clause in the contract with the boat company.

Membership campaign of the Detroit branch continued through July and at latest reports the branch totals had been pushed to 16,257 members and $19,383.45.

Attorneys for the branch have announced that four restrictive covenant cases will be argued before the Michigan Supreme Court in October. Willis M. Graves and Francis M. Dent, NAACP lawyers, have issued a digest of the cases, as follows: *Wagner Saari, et al vs. Joel Marshall.* Case filed April 1, 1943. Trial started March 29, 1945. Decision July, 1945. Appealed to Michigan Supreme Court, to be heard October, 1946.

The point involved was the prevention of occupancy of premises known as 1925-27 LaBelle avenue, Detroit, by Joel E. Marshall and Rosa Marshall, his wife, on the claim that they were not of the caucasian race. The restriction claimed on the subdivision reads: "This property shall not be used or occupied by any persons except those of the caucasian race."

The defense in the case was that this particular restrictive covenant did not appear in any of the deeds in the chain of title to this particular lot. The trial judge in his opinion stated that the defendants had notice of the restriction and therefore were bound by it.

Katherine Mrsa., Widow et al vs. Collins J. Reynolds. The case was filed on December 10, 1943, and testimony concluded March 15, 1945. The case was based on a restrictive covenant that read: "None of said premises shall be used or occupied by the African race nor same be used for manufacturing purposes."

The restrictive covenant was placed in an early deed by a corporation. The defense has been that there is not a race known as the "African race" and that a corporation cannot make such a restriction.

James W. Ward, Northwest Civic Association vs. Otis E. Shelton. The point

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS *of the Columbus, Ohio, branch. Front row L to R: Mrs. Julia E. Brooks, corresponding secretary; Bertha Woods, recording secretary; W. H. Brooks, president; B. E. Slaughter, vice-president; Eva Petty, membership secretary; back row: John Smith, Amy Marshall, Mary Tolliver, Kenneth Morris, Mrs. Adele Carter, Mrs. Minnie Davis, Charles Clark, John M. Stanley, Mrs. Ruth Irvin and Charles Spicer.*

CORNELL COLLEGE CHAPTER *of the NAACP. Front row, L to R: Helen Adams, Irene Murray, Margaret Bird, Walter Lewis, Robert Sugarman, Edith Trice, Richard Younge, Libby Shmayefsky; second row: Gladys Hendrickson, Helen Mihalyfi, Clyde Whitted, Allen Barton, Philis Stolier, Selma Chernigow, Esther Neustatter, Joan Kaplain, Mary Ann Morris Helen Levy, Gloria Clyne; third row: Lincoln Diuguid, George Fowler, Steve Collins, George Thompson, Dan Taggard, Stanley Sutton, Norman Schneyer, Martin Moran, Allen Wilson.*

involved was the prevention of the occupancy of property at 5325 Seebaldt avenue, Detroit, by Otis E. Shelton and Louise Shelton, William West and Bessie Lee West, in violation of a restrictive covenant which reads: "Said premises shall not be sold nor leased to, or occupied by any person other than one of the caucasian race."

In this case all the persons except Otis E. Shelton are white. Therefore the suit is against Otis E. Shelton in particular. The defense is that the restriction was never placed in the chain of title and the defendants had no notice of it.

Benjamin F. Sipes, et al vs. Orsel McGhee. The case was filed January 30, 1945, and tried May 9, 1945. The case involved prevention of occupancy of premises at 4626 Seebaldt avenue, Detroit, by Orsel McGhee and Minnie McGhee, his wife, on the claim that they were not of the caucasian race.

The restriction on this property shall not be used or occupied by any person except those of the caucasian race."

This restrictive covenant was executed by the property owners in the block and was filed prior to the purchase of the property by the McGree family. The defense in the case was that the agreement had been improperly executed and was therefore not binding, but principal defense was the constitutional question of enforcement by the court.

The lower courts have decided against the branch in all these cases.

Edward M. Swan was elected on July 9 to the post of executive secretary of the Detroit branch to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of Gloster B. Current, who assumed his duties as director of branches in the national office, New York, on September 1.

MISSOURI: Annual meeting of the Missouri state conference of branches was held on June 8 at the Garfield high school in Mexico, Mo.

NEW JERSEY: William A. Fisher, chairman of the 1946 membership campiagn for the ATLANTIC CITY branch, was awarded a silver plaque for successfully directing the membership drive beyond its goal of 1,500 members. Mr. Fisher, who has been chairman of the membership drive for two years, has seen the branch grow from 1,000 to over 1,800 members.

OHIO: In July the PIQUA council honored Colleen Clemens with a certificate of congratulations and commendation for having been chosen "Negro youth of the month" for June.

In TOLEDO the branch has set a membership goal of 2,000, with the following leaders: Mrs. Irene Hill, Mrs. Leona Flint, John Doneghy, and Van T. Sherrill. Heads of special groups are as follows: youth division, William Gibson; churches, Dr. M. A. Harris; businessmen, Robert Roach; teachers, Mrs. Isabelle Simmons; beauticians, Mrs. Margaret Harding; labor unions, Nathaniel Owens and Raymond Thurman; special gifts, Maude B. Ford and

CAMPAIGN WORKERS *of the Kansas City, Mo., branch.*

Dewitt

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE *of the White Plains, N. Y., branch. Front row, L to R: Ruth Cook, Louise Dyson, Mrs. Lukas, Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Mattie Goodlett, Mrs. Hallie Hill, Miss Bolden; back row: William Maloney, Charles Shelton (chairman), Mrs. Vanilla Hines, Mrs. Lillie Haynes, and Mrs. Alberta Webb.*

Mrs. Orville Knoke. General chairman of the membership drive is Rev. A. C. Sumpter.

The branch has worked hard to get an FEPC proposal before the Toledo city council, but without success. Ben Dinwiddie, chairman of education committee, did a fine job in presenting one of the defendants in the Columbia, Tenn., case to a large Toledo audience on April 28.

Nathan K. Christopher, president of the CLEVELAND branch, was elected by the delegates of the 37th annual NAACP convention, assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, June 29, to the nominating committee, whose duty it is to select 13 new members of the national board of directors of the NAACP.

On July 17, Mrs. Marie Walker of 2933 East 71st street was abused by delegates to the VFW convention, meeting in the city. As she alighted from a streetcar at 4th and Prospect on her way to work, three VFW delegates tossed a box at her, hitting her on the head. She resented this, and an argument ensued, whereupon one of the delegates told her she should go back down South. He grabbed her dress and kicked her, hit her over the head with a shoe, and struck her in the mouth with his fist. When a Negro man came to Mrs. Walker's defense, he was promptly knocked down.

Mrs. Walker reported the attack to the branch and Charles P. Lucas, executive secretary, after verifying her story, immediately got in touch with George L. Fetter, departmental commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The branch plans to back the case until justice is done.

Seeking to exhaust all administrative remedies for the school situation at the Chagrin Falls Park Allotment, officials of the branch took the first step in the elimination of the much discussed segregated school, under the supervision of the Bainbridge school board, through a petition resulting from a thorough investigation by the branch.

The Thrifty Home Makers Club, in keeping with their yearly activities, made a donation of $10 to the Cleveland branch.

Annual membership campaign of the branch began September 15, and will run through October 6.

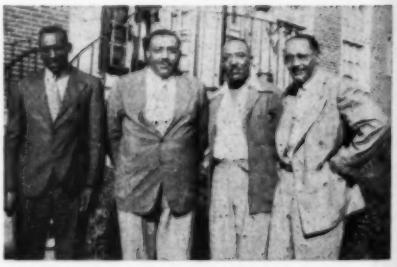
PENNSYLVANIA: The 1946 membership drive of the PHILADELPHIA branch closed officially on July 17 with 14,554 active members. This exceeds the 1945 active membership for the local branch, as of July 31, 1945, by 144 members.

The alleged bowling alley case involving the Circle Bowling Recreation, 4671 Darrah street, and William Gambrel and Mercel Randolph has been settled. The complainants stated that when they asked the manager-owner of the Circle if he positively refused to let colored people use his alley that his reply was—"That's it exactly!" After a conference between Charles A. Shorter, executive secretary of the branch, and C. W. Findley, manager of the Circle, the latter admitted the wrong done and agreed that Gambrel and Randolph would encounter no difficulty in the future.

Acting on a request from the Philadelphia branch a complaint received from Levin Holland, 1231 N. 15th street, concerning discrimination, the Short Line, Inc., after making an investigation, has stated in a letter: "You may be further assured that our company has never and will not show discrimination toward any individual under any circumstances."

Holland reported that he had been made to move to the back of the bus by a police officer of Selbyville, Del., at the request of the bus driver.

Upon request of the Philadelphia branch, more than 2,500 stores and businesses, and an estimated half million persons, participated in a "memorial Day" demonstration for recent lynch victims in Georgia and Mississippi.



BRANCH PERSONALITIES – *Trazona M. Beverly age nine months, and her mother Mrs. Lois Beverly, one of the winners in the baby contest of the Baltimore, Md., branch. Miss Dona Williams, active worker in the River-Rouge-Ecorse, Mich., branch. Single-handed, she brought in 247 new members. Winning campaign team of the Waterloo, Iowa, branch, L to R: Jesse Garrison, L. B. Ferguson, Joseph Williams and M. F. Fields, branch president.*

Health Burden

(Continued from page 270)

upon the sound and time tested insurance principle that a large number of insured will permit a greater coverage in services, smaller premiums and

less administrative expense than will smaller groups of insured persons, the National Health Bill proposes that the entire population earning an income be taxed a small percentage of earnings, (percentage to be determined), which shall provide ultimately for complete coverage of medical services with a similar provision for the medical care of the indigent. The American Medical Association proposes that on a trial and error basis various forms of voluntary prepayment medical cart plans be tried out until optimal procedures are determined by experience. It further proposes that regional plans shall be locally determined. Already it has been evident that all such plans so far proposed have the weakness that they are available to the relatively small groups who are able to pay for them and have but limited coverage and high premiums, so that still the people who need medical care most are not able to provide for it. The American Medical Association's proposal then blandly suggests that the indigent, who are not able to be provided for through some prepayment medical care plan, or local public funds, should be cared for by federal funds. Where the Federal Government would obtain these funds the American Medical Association does not indicate. The voluntary prepayment plans are particularly little available to the poorly circumstanced of the American population of whom Negroes constitute the largest group. In addition, where these plans have already appeared and are operating, besides being little available to Negroes on an economic basis, they have been closed to them by reason of racial discrimination as well. The law has been the best safeguard of the underprivileged throughout our history. Therefore, the Association firmly believes that equal justice in the securing of adequate medical care for all citizens would be better obtained by national legislation to that end than by any other means.

The Association affirms that the profession of separate, but equal facilities for the care of the Negro population in those areas where that population is concentrated has always been a myth, and would prove again to be a myth should it be attempted. Specifically the Association wishes to declare against the principle in the application of this bill to the development of separate hospitals, separate health centers, separate training programs and separate public health programs. We wish to declare emphatically for the elimination of the entire racial separation practice in the construction of any new facilities, and in the operation of all new plans for the distribution of medical care and for the integration of Negro professional personnel into all levels of the plan according to qualification. Recent experience with attempts to assure adequate professional personnel through the separate system of professional education have proved how sterile and ineffective is this plan. It has resulted in there being not only inadequate numbers of general practitioners (and nurses) but also of specialists in the respective fields.

The Association's study of this bill indicates that it might be possible for the administration of the program to be assigned through private auspices, particularly state and local medical societies. This Association would be unequivocably and unalterably opposed to any arrangement of this kind. In many states, including the entire South and the District of Columbia, local medical societies have consistently barred Negro physicians from membership, and the American Medical Association, through the technicality of not admitting to its membership physicians who are not members of their local societies, has extended the effect of this racial discrimination. This Association, therefore, would see no outlook but the perpetuation of these discriminatory practices in the administration of a national health program and advocates that the administration be entirely in the hands of responsible public officials.

In the summary it may be stated that from the point of view of the NAACP, S.1606, for the first time in our history, provides a means whereby the economic barrier to the extension of medical care to the millions of American citizens who so sorely need, but cannot afford such care, may be overcome. It provides a means, further, whereby the tragedy of economic collapse brought upon families by expensive illness may be averted. This plan appears conceived upon the soundest possible basis, namely, the distribution of cost over the entire earning population so that maximum coverage for all may be achieved while administrative expenses are held to a minimum.

In closing, the NAACP regards S.1606 as one of the most progressive and potentially beneficial pieces of legislation of recent years. It is sorely needed by the great majority of Americans, but it is most acutely needed by our 14 million American Negro citizens.

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Georgia Elections

(*Continued from page 267*)

plications. Although the county went to Talmadge, the Monroe district voted almost 2 to 1 against him. The city's votes were divided as follows: For Carmichael, 1,253; Talmadge, 635; and 276 for Rivers. Over 400 Negroes are reported to have voted there and practically all of them voted for Carmichael. Also, in Monroe the Negro vote retired from office Representative Almond, who is a veteran legislator. The Negroes are reported to have voted solidly for Almond's young veteran opponent, because Almond signed a petition to convene the legislature to prevent Negroes from voting. The legislature, however, was never convened because of insufficient signatures of its members for a session.

These facts are believed to have aroused the ire of the Talmadge supporters who are strong in rural precincts. For example, in the Blasingame district, which is near the location of the lynching, that district cast 119 votes for Talmadge and 14 for Carmichael. A very few, if any, Negroes voted in the rural districts. Fear and intimidation are the reasons.

The unit system as presently constituted is obviously discriminatory against the voters in the larger cities. It has had critics through the years. However, no serious attack was made against the unit system until a suit was filed in federal court, August 2, in an attempt to block the certification of former Governor Talmadge and to have the unit system declared unconstitutional. The suit, backed by white liberals, is based on the Fourteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution which states:

"No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of the United States nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

It further charged that the authorization of the county unit votes is "a deliberate, express and unreasonable discrimination in varying degrees against all voters in any but the smallest counties.

Purges Attempted

Examples of discriminations against registered voters in the more populous counties follow:

In Fulton County (Atlanta) "it requires 106 plus voters . . . to have the same value as one vote in Chattahoochee county. So it also requires 71 votes in Fulton county to have the same value as one in Quitman county."

The suit stated that 84,550 votes were cast in Fulton county in the recent primary, but only 26,770 votes were cast in DeKalb county.

On the basis of incomplete data on the purge mania of the Talmadge forces, it would be difficult to say definitely that the election would have turned out differently. For in some counties purges took place on a wholesale scale. In Fulton county, 3,000 Negroes were challenged but only 50 were disqualified. Polk county registrars dismissed challenges against 499 Negroes with the comment that "the tax collector had carried out the duties properly when he qualified them."

In Ware county, two registrars and a woman clerk resigned in protest in order to block the purging of 700 Negroes but no whites. On the following Monday the challenges were withdrawn after a reported visit of a Savannah, attorney, dispatched to the scene by the Georgia Association of Citizens Democratic clubs to defend the purged individuals. Of 322 Negroes registered in Barrow county, all were challenged. But the tax-collector refused to honor the challenges on the grounds that "they passed the same test applied to the whites." In Schley county, registrars were reported to have disqualified approximately 50 per cent of the 200 Negroes registered. Spaulding county registrars dismissed challenges against 200 Negroes because the charges "were too general and the complainant admitted he did not know the individuals whose right to vote he was contesting.

At about eleven o'clock on the morning of July 17, a group of Talmadge men was sent to challenge Negro voters in Dougherty county. The managers refused to accept any challenges on the grounds that it was too late and would slow up the election. An estimated 600 out of 700 Negroes were purged in Houston county. And in Appling county a group of white citizens protested to the U. S. Department of Justice that there was "a conspiracy to deny Negroes the right to vote." Whereupon, a permanent federal injunction was granted forbidding wholesale purging of the names of Negroes from the voting lists.

Cecil Layne

AUTHOR *John D. Silvera of "The Negro in World War II" reviewed at lower right.*

Despite the official nomination of Talmadge as governor, and his promise to bar the Negro from participation in future primaries during his term of office, these facts should be borne in mind:

(1) That through the Georgia Association of Citizens Democratic clubs which led the fight for Negro participation in the primary, the Negroes of Georgia have a powerful political instrument which will grow stronger as the months pass.

(2) That the Negro will resist determinately attempts to dislodge him from his newly won political position of voting in the primary.

Another hopeful aspect of the election was the selection of M. E. Thompson, a former secretary to Governor Arnall and considered a liberal himself. Mr. Thompson received a majority of the Negro votes.

Book Reviews

PHILOSOPHIAE DOCTOR

***Holders of Doctorates Among American Negroes: An Educational and Social Study of Negroes Who Have Earned Doctoral Degrees in Courses, 1876-1943.* By Harry Washington Greene. Boston: Meador Publishing Co., 1946. 275pp. $3.00.**

A useful reference book which surveys Negro holders of the Ph. D. since 1876. During the period covered, the author finds that fifty-seven American and foreign institutions conferred the degree of Ph. D. or its academic equivalent upon 381 Negroes. Fourteen of the institutions were foreign. Of the American universities which conferred degrees, the University of Chicago leads with 40, trailed by Columbia with 35. More doctorates were awarded in the field of the social sciences and education than in any other field of specialization. Forty-eight of the recipients were women.

Occupational and employment aspects and membership and patricipation in learned societies is also studied. Entries are classified alphabetically by the field of specialization in which the recipient holds the doctorate, listing his present occupation, undergraduate degrees held and where obtained, his major field, title of dissertation, books or papers authored, and honors and awards, if any.

Our author is in error when he lists Herbert Aptheker, at page 274, author of *American Negro Slave Revolts*, as a Negro holder of a Ph.D. Mr. Apetheker, unless he has been passing, is white.

PICTORIAL HISTORY

***The Negro in World War II.* By John D. Silvera. Baton Rouge, La.: Military Press, Inc., of Army and Navy Publishing Co., 1946. 236 pp. $4.00.**

John D. Silvera, a serviceman man himself and formerly an intelligence and public relations officer for Col. B. O. Davis, Jr., at Godman Field, Ky., has edited and put together the first pictorial history of the Negro in World War II. His pictures are graphic and authentic, coming as they do from official sources, and point up with sharp clarity the achievements of the Negro in the recent global conflict. The book covers practically the entire field of American operations from New Guinea, through Saipan and Okinawa, to the ETO. There are pictures of soldiers, sailors, WACs, WAVEs, the Nurse Corps, and heroes of the merchant marine and the Coast Guard. Crisp captions and clever layouts make the book a delight for both the brain and the eye. Two valuable features are the three appendixes: "Negroes in Previous Wars," "Negro Units Listed with Station," and "A Breakdown of the

(Continued on page 286)

LEGAL DIRECTORY

The following directory of some of the many colored lawyers in this country is carried in response to numerous inquiries from readers desiring to contact attorney outside their home towns. THE CRISIS maintains no legal bureau, and the N.A.A.C.P. handles only cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizen rights.

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Pictorial History

(*Continued from page 284*)

Types and Kinds of Negro Units in or En Route . . ." from the various theatres of operations as of July 1, 1945.

Here is a book for every Negro's library, for it helps to set the record straight as to what the colored soldier actually did do in World War II, and serves up fact to counteract the much-advertised "failure" of the Negro as a soldier.

It seems that the draft corralled a much higher percentage of articulate, courageous Negroes than it did during the first semi-global butchery. This reviewer anway, has come across more first-rate *reportage* from Negro veterans of the recent carnage than from the doughboys of 1918.

And this is all to the good, for the Negro tells his own story and thereby helps to counteract the quaint American superstition that the Negro does not make a "good soldier"; that is, a fighter. Such a belief is, of course, sheer nonsense; and no one with the slightest knowledge of history takes the least stock in it. It is doubtful if even those brass hats who are the greatest propounders of the screed really believe it themselves deep down in their hearts, or they would not be such zealous advocates of segregated Negro service outfits. And remember that denigration of the Negro's soldierly qualities is largely a matter of the last few decades.

If Negroes will turn for a few minutes to other climes and times, they will find a healthy antidote to American detraction in the heroic achievements of such brilliant Negro generals as Toussaint-Louverture of Haiti, Henrique Dias, Tiburcio Ferreira de Souza, and Mauel Luis Osorio of Brazil, Eusebio of Argentina, Antonio Maceo of Cuba, Laurencio Silva of Venezuela, Vicent Guerrero of Mexico, and Alfred Dodds and Alexander Davy de la Pailleterie (Dumas) of France. One could fill pages with the names and exploits of brilliant Negro generals and soldiers. And yet our fellow pale-face Americans would have us and the world to believe that we make poor soldiers.

J. W. Ivy

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—Policies in force: 3,584,745
—Employment (38 companies reporting) 10,084 Negroes

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